

21st July, 1943

B.S. 1943/7A.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - MONTHLY DIGEST.

JULY - 1943.

GENERAL.

Commonwealth (1939-) war expenditure in June, 1943, was £60.8 m. and the total in the year 1942-43 was £562 m. compared with £320 m. in 1941-42. Revenue provided 28% of war expenditure in 1942-43. Total Commonwealth expenditure for the year was £670 m. and the total for the last four years was £1,495 m. of which £1,107 m. was for war (1939-) services.

State Government accounts in N.S.W., S.A. and Queensland show surpluses at 30th June, 1943. The Loan Council has allocated £10.97 m. for public works loan expenditure in 1943-44.

Share prices were steady in June, 1943. Preference shares and other company securities carrying fixed dividends are no longer subject to fixed maximum prices. Prices of such securities have moved upward.

Retail sales showed a rise in April and May, 1943. A Civilian Requirements Board has been established to estimate essential civil needs of commodities and plan the relief of shortages. A Directorate of Supply has also been set up.

Retail prices indexes increased in June Quarter and the Sydney basic wage (adult males) rises in August, 1943 by 2/- to £5 a per week. Increased wages costs of private employers arising out of the adjustment are to be borne by the Federal Government under the Prices Stabilisation Plan. The retail price of tea has been reduced by 1/2 per lb. and wholesalers will be subsidised. The sales tax on rationed clothing, drapery etc. formerly subject to 12½% tax is now 7½%. In capital cities the selling price of potatoes becomes 5 lb. for 6d. The Government's policy is to restore the cost-of-living to the level existing on April 12th, 1943.

Total employment in N.S.W. decreased in April, 1943, although there was a further slight expansion in females employed. Non-factory employment continues to decline, although females in this category are increasing. Factory employment in April, 1943 showed little movement compared with March but seasonal factors affected some classes. Further rearrangements in the munitions programme have been announced.

Rainfall has been poor during the last few weeks. Butter output reached a very low level in May, 1943. It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that acreage sown to wheat in N.S.W. has declined 20% this season.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Commonwealth: Expenditure on (1939-) war services in June, 1943 was £60.8 m. including £20.1 m. from loan funds.

Results of Commonwealth financial operations in the year ended June, 30th, 1943 are shown below in comparison with previous years. Total revenue of the Commonwealth (exclusive of taxation accruing to the States and collected by the Commonwealth) was £268 m., an increase over the previous year of £58 m. of which income tax accounted for £37 m., customs and excise £8 m., sales tax £2 m.,

/entertainments.....

entertainments tax £2.4 m. and business undertakings £4.7 m. Civil expenditure increased by £7 m. including £3 m. on invalid and old-age pensions and £1 m. on ordinary votes of departments. War (1939-) expenditure per month rose rapidly in the early part of 1942/43 and totalled £253 m. by December, 1942. In the second half of the year war expenditure was £309 m. making £562 m. for the year. Loan funds provided £403 m. and revenue £159 m..

Included under the heading war expenditure below are amounts of interest, exchange and sinking fund payable on (1939-) war loans. Such payments amounted to over £7 m. in 1941/42. During 1942/43 two war loans raised about £185 m. of new money and the Treasury Bill issue increased by about £200 m. so that interest and sinking fund payments on war loans are becoming a very large item under the heading "war expenditure".

Total cost of the war to 30/6/43 is put at £1,107 m. of which revenue has provided £362 m. or 32.7%. The proportion of war expenditure provided by revenue has declined in the four years as follows:- 1939-40, 44%; then 40%; 34% and 28% respectively.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

£ millions.

Item	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	Totals, Four years
Revenue & Balances in Hand					
Appropriated	114	153	210	268	745
Civil Expenditure - from Rev.	85	85	101	108	379
- " Loan	3	4	2	-	9
War Expenditure - from Rev.	24	65	109	159	357
- " Balances	2	3	-	-	5
- " Loan	29	102	211	403	745
- Total (War)	55	170	320	562	1,107
Grand Total Expenditure	143	259	423	670	1,495

× Approximate.

Excluded above are reimbursements of the States for taxation collected under the uniform tax scheme. In 1942-43 the amounts involved were - income tax, £26.4 m. and entertainments tax, £0.57 m.. Other payments to the States in 1942-43 totalled £13.1 m.

COMMONWEALTH PAYMENTS TO STATES.

	1941-42. £000	1942-43 £000
Special grants -		
Sth. Australia	1,150	800
Western Australia	630	800
Tasmania	520	575 (a)
Roads & Works (b)	2,128	1,603
Grants to loan service for local public works	100	100
Sinking fund State debts	1,580	1,588
Interest, state debts	7,585	7,585
Interest, drought relief	38	40
Total	13,731	13,091
Tax reimbursements	...	27,006
	13,731	40,097

(a) A further grant of £200,000 approved.

(b) Corresponding figure in 1940-41: £3,485,000.

The Loan Council meeting approved of loan expenditure on public works in 1943-44 of £10.97 m. or about £0.5 m. less than last year. Borrowings by local government authorities slightly higher than in 1942-43 were also approved and included two amounts of £250,000 each for the purchase of land for post-war housing. The N.S.W. share of government civil loan expenditure was fixed at £3,507,537 and of semi-governmental funds, £1,051,000. N.S.W. intends to spend £1,705,000 on railways including £600,000 on rolling stock.

At the recent Premiers' Conference it was decided to set up a National Works Council designed to secure co-ordinated planning and continuity of approach to developmental projects. In its early stages the council, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, will investigate large-scale projects for the reconstruction period.

STATE FINANCES.

Queensland reported a surplus of £5,352,000 at 30th June, 1943 and £5½ m. has been appropriated for post-war development. In addition there is an accumulated surplus in the unemployment insurance account of £1.6 m.. Railway receipts in 1942-43 were very high.

South Australia announced a surplus of £233,000 compared with £1,290,000 last year.

In the N.S.W. public accounts the surplus at 30th June, 1943 was £1.1 m. excluding Main Roads Dept. but when the Main Roads Dept. is included the surplus becomes £1.6 m. or £500,000 above 1941-42.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

Consolidated Revenue Fund and Business Undertakings (incl. Main Roads Dept.)

		Year ended June.					Estimates
		1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1942-43.
Revenue	£m	58.85	63.26	67.78	70.79	76.60	69.15
Expenditure	£m	61.60	65.50	68.40	69.69	75.00	69.13
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	£m	(-)2.75	(-)2.24	(-)0.62	+1.10	+1.60	+0.2

PRIVATE FINANCE.

The Statistician's index of prices of shares of 75 companies (par = 100) rose by one point in June, 1943 to 180. The only individual group to show an increase was manufacturing and distributing which increased from 234 to 235.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's index of industrial share prices (1934=100) was 132.01 on June 1st and 132.17 on June 30th. On July 20th the index had risen to 133.07.

Ceiling and maximum prices for company securities carrying a fixed dividend rate have been abolished. Securities involved are company debentures, inscribed stock and preference shares (non-participating). Such securities have been increasingly sought by investors and many had reach maximum permissible prices. The release of the securities has resulted in a rise in quotations.

Death claims arising out of war service and paid voluntarily by life assurance companies in Australia amount so far to £3.5 m. Contributions to war loans amount to about £20 m. a year. These figures were quoted by the President of the S.A. Insurance Institute. About 4 million life policies are in force in Australia. Bonus additions are reduced in wartime due to lower average yields on investments and higher expenses.

War Damage Insurance contributions rates are to be reviewed before the end of this year. Receipts of the Fund to date, including interest, total £13 m..

COMMERCE.

The index of Sydney bank clearings which was 100 in 1939 was 155 in May, 1943. No adjustment has been made for rising price levels.

The index of retail sales showed increases in April and May. In the latter month, sales were probably influenced by the expiry of clothing ration coupons on June 5th, 1943.

The value of wholesale sales remains high but the proportion represented by exempt goods, which include Federal Government purchases, has increased.

A directorate of Supply has been set up within the Supply Department. The directorate will attend to the procurement of war supplies and the planning and control of production for military and civilian requirements. Control of commodities, with certain exceptions, will be administered by the directorate. The Director is also chairman of the Contract Board.

Period.	Bank Clearings (Sydney)		Wholesale Trade: Sales, (N.S.W.)	Retail Trade, Sydney: Index of Value of Sales. ϕ 1931=100.	Real Estate Transactions.	
	Amount.	Index No. (a)			Mortgages.	Sales.
	£n.	ϕ	£n.		£n.	£n.
1939	932	100	200	146	22.4	32.2
1941	1,139	120	229	178	15.6	35.2
1942	1,249	131	239	169	8.0	21.6
1941 - Apr.	86.9	111	19.1	164	1.3	2.6
May	106.3	117	18.8	172	1.3	2.8
1942 - Mar.	102.6	123	19.5	178	1.0	2.1
- Apr.	95.4	125	19.2	194	0.9	2.3
- May	98.9	125	20.7	192	0.5	1.2
1943 - Jan.	106.7	136	17.2	130	0.6	1.2
Feb.	105.7	139	21.6	129	0.4	1.3
Mar.	123.4	138	19.4	145	0.5	1.6
Apr.	125.3	150	21.9	158(b)	0.5	1.5
May	123.0	155	19.6	173	0.4	1.2

ϕ Three months ended month shown.

(a) Av. Corresponding month 1926-30 = 100. The effects of special Government transactions are eliminated from the Index.

(b) Revised.

Paper rationing has been tightened in respect of periodicals and calendars. Election posters are limited to 10" x 6".

A Civilian Requirements Board has been established within the Department of War Organisation of Industry under the chairmanship of the economic adviser to the department, Dr. E.R. Walker, and including representatives of the Rationing Commission and the Food Controller. The aim of the Board is to estimate essential civilian requirements and provide the controllers of materials, manpower and Production, with authoritative advice. It will serve as a claimant authority on behalf of essential civilian needs and a co-ordinating authority in planning the relief of shortages. Re-arrangement of the munitions programme will help in the latter objective.

Cargoes destined for Eastern countries which, on the entry of Japan into the war, were diverted to Australia, aggregated 200,000 tons. Most of the cargoes have been distributed though some goods were still held at the middle of July, 1943, on behalf of the service canteens.

Extra clothing coupons will again be issued to outsize children for the current ration year.

The Prices Branch has gazetted a schedule of fixed prices for 185 grocery lines in Melbourne shops. Similar lists are being prepared in other States. Further steps to control prices of vegetables are under consideration.

PRICES.

The index number for Sydney in the "C" Series Index Numbers of Retail Prices increased by 2.1% in June Quarter, 1943. Increases in price were recorded for potatoes, eggs and onions. Seasonal winter clothing and some other garments showed rises in prices over those previously recorded and this was the main cause of the rise in the price level. Action to reduce the cost-of-living and stabilise the general price level at the level applying on April 12th, 1943 has been announced.

Sales tax is reduced to $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ on clothing and drapery for which ration coupons are required and which were subject a tax of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$.

Price reductions have been announced for tea and potatoes. First grade tea formerly 3/5 lb. and second-grade formerly 3/1 are each reduced 1/2 per lb. to 2/3 and 1/11 per lb. respectively. Tea sellers are to be reimbursed through the Tea Board. In capital cities the price of potatoes becomes 5 lb. for 6d.

RETAIL PRICES - "C" SERIES INDEX NUMBERS.

(Cost of food, groceries, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items).

Area.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1942.				1943	
					Mar. Qr.	June Qr.	Sept. Qr.	Dec. Qr.	Mar. Qr.	June Qr.
N.S.W. -										
Sydney	936	974	1,028	1,107	1,070	1,096	1,122	1,138	1,141	1,165
Five Towns	933	972	1,026	1,104	1,068	1,094	1,118	1,135	1,137	1,162
(wtd.av.)										
Aust.-										
Six Capitals	920	957	1,008	1,091	1,053	1,081	1,106	1,122	1,123	1,143
(wtd.av.)										

Base: Weighted average in the six capital cities in the period 1923-27 = 1000.

The basic wage is determined from time to time by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and, in the interim periods, it is adjusted in accordance with the movement in the "C" Series Index of Retail Prices. The adjustment in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth in the basic wage levels as from the first pay in August, 1943 is 2/-. The adjustment on the N.S.W. five towns basis is also 2/-

The basic wage in Sydney becomes £5 per week for males and 53/6 for females.

Employers will not pass on the increase in wage costs resulting from the cost of living adjustment but will be reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Prices Stabilisation Plan. Government and semi-government bodies will not receive the refund. It is expected that the prices subsidies announced on July 21st will result in a downward adjustment of the basic wage in November, 1943 and in the interim reimbursement of employers will cost about £250,000 per month.

BASIC WAGE - PREDOMINANT RATE IN FEDERAL AWARDS
SYDNEY.

Shillings per week. Adult males.

Quarterly adjustment commencing :-

Year	February	May	August	November.
1939 ^m	81	82	81	82
1940	82	83	85	85
1941	88	88	89	89
1942	91	93	95	97
1943	98	98	100	

^m Commencing one month later.

The Acting Federal Minister for Labour and National Service has approved an award of the Western Australian Arbitration Court abolishing night baking and the allowance of 10/- per week applying to such work.

Soldiers ranking as privates who have completed six months' service and have qualified at a prescribed examination are to be paid a proficiency margin of 6d. per day. An additional 6d. a day will be granted to lance-corporals and lance-bombardiers, whose rank formerly did not carry extra pay. The total cost is £1.8 p.a.

EMPLOYMENT.

Estimated total non-rural employment (exclusive of household domestics) was 772,100 in April, 1943. There was a decrease of 2,000 compared with March, Government employment increasing by 1,500 whilst private employment declined by 3,500. The number of males employed decreased by 2,700 but the upward trend of female employment continued.

Some of the decline in total employment during April, 1943 resulted from seasonal movements.

Males in non-rural employment in March, 1943 were slightly less than in July, 1939. In April there was a further decline. Females employed in N.S.W., other than in rural and domestic employment, increased by 80,000 from July, 1939 to April, 1943.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTIMATED NON-RURAL WAGE & SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC)

(Includes Civil Constructional Corps In N.S.W.)

End of Month	M A L E S.			F E M A L E S.			T O T A L.		
	Government (C/wealth, State, Local and Allied).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth, State, Local and Allied).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth, State, Local and Allied).	Private Employers	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1933-June	103.2	275.7	378.9	16.8	101.8	118.6	120.0	377.5	497.5
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.1
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
-Dec.	146.4	420.3	566.7	23.4	195.7	219.1	169.8	616.0	785.8
1942-Feb.	148.6	410.5	559.1	25.2	196.7	221.9	173.8	607.2	781.0
-Mar.	151.1	405.3	556.4	25.7	197.1	222.8	176.8	602.4	779.2
-Apr.	154.1	398.1	552.2	27.2	197.9	225.1	181.3	596.0	777.4
1943-Feb.	156.7	379.5	536.2	37.2	200.5	237.7	193.9	580.0	773.6
Mar.	156.2	378.0	534.2	38.7	201.2	239.9	194.9	579.2	774.1
Apr.	156.6	374.9	531.5	39.8	200.8	240.6	196.4	575.7	772.3

(Excludes persons on military service).

Since last issue estimates for January, 1942 and later have been revised.

The table below shows the trend in employment in certain broad industrial groups. The numbers shown do not represent the totals employed in the industries.

There was a decline in employment in each group in April, 1943 with the exception of land transport. A decrease in coal mining employment probably was temporary. Female employment in the main groups showed little change.

Factory employment is shown later.

Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of larger quantities of radio accessories for civilians. Radio servicemen are to be registered and zones of operation determined. The Department of War Organisation of Industry has been approached on the question of a similar scheme for refrigerator service.

Hundreds of women are required for munition and textile work in or near Sydney. In the last two months 3,673 women and girls not previously employed have gone into employment in N.S.W.

N.S.W. - EMPLOYEES SHOWN ON PAY-ROLL TAX RETURNS. (a)
(Thousands)

Month.	Mines & Quarries	Building & (a) Constr'n.	Land Trans't.		Retail Trade.		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce & Finance		Personal Service (excl. pvte. domestics)	
	Males.	Males.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
41-July	21.7	20.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.1	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
-Dec.	21.7	18.3	62.3	3.0	31.9	35.2	28.5	10.9	21.1	10.5	16.8	21.8
42-Feb.	21.2	20.1	62.4	3.1	29.4	33.5	27.9	11.1	19.8	11.2	15.4	21.5
-Mar.	21.2	19.9	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	11.0	19.3	11.3	15.1	21.5
-Apr.	20.9	19.1	62.1	3.3	27.6	33.6	26.7	11.2	19.2	11.4	14.5	21.7
-Dec.	20.7	15.4	62.4	4.3	24.6	32.9	24.6	11.4	16.3	11.7	12.7	21.6
43-Feb.	20.5	17.1	62.9	4.7	23.0	30.9	24.8	11.6	16.5	11.9	12.7	21.7
-Mar.	20.5	17.0	63.2	4.9	22.6	30.8	24.3	11.2	15.8	11.8	12.8	21.8
-Apr.	19.7	16.7	63.2	5.0	22.5	30.5	23.9	11.3	15.2	11.9	12.6	21.8

- (a) Excluding large numbers employed on some Government Construction works.
 (b) Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Government, charities etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per week.

Factory employment in N.S.W. showed only a slight increase in April, 1943, the estimated total at the end of the month being 316,000 (including working proprietors). There was a seasonal decline in the food processing group. In the metal manufactures and aircraft group there was an expansion of 1,800 including 1,000 females.

The table below shows the trend of factory and non-factory employment. During the year ended April, 1943, factories in N.S.W. absorbed only 3,600 males but the number of females absorbed was 10,600.

Since July, 1941, females in Government non-factory employment have increased by about 10,900 and in the private category there has been an expansion of only 4,800.

Males employed by Government authorities other than in manufacturing were in April, 1943 only 4,000 above the July, 1939 level. On the other hand, males in private non-factory employment have declined by over 60,000.

N.S.W. - FACTORY & "OTHER" EMPLOYMENT.
(Thousands)

End of Month	FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (a)			NON-FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (c)		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1939-July	158.8	59.5	218.1	376.8	101.4	478.2
1941-July	202.1	76.0	278.1	358.9	132.5	491.4
1942-Mar.	212.2	81.8	294.0	344.2	141.0	485.2
-Apr.	211.8	81.8	293.6	340.4	143.3	483.7
1943-Feb.	214.3(b)	90.4(b)	304.7(b)	321.9	147.3	469.2
Mar.	215.5(b)	92.1(b)	307.6(b)	318.7	147.8	466.5
Apr.	215.4(b)	92.4(b)	307.8(b)	316.1	148.2	464.3

(a) Excluding working proprietors.

(b) Subject to revision.

(c) Excluding rural employees and household domestics.

Local production of motor vehicle spare parts is to be substantially expanded. Present supplies of many parts are restricted to high priority licence holders.

The Minister for Aircraft Production has announced that six types of aircraft had been successfully produced in Australia.

New industries which are being established in South Australia include a plant for the re-forging of scrap steel. Its two units valued at £600,000 will be operated by Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. but will be owned by the Commonwealth Government. A £500,000 government chemical plant will be suitable for the production of fertilisers after the war. This is one of a chain of four chemical plants being established in different States at a total outlay of over £2 m.

Two new ships were launched on July 12th from a N.S.W. dockyard. The dockyard also does repair work and makes auxiliary machinery and main engine parts for standard merchant ships. The existing shipbuilding programme estimated to cost £12 m. has been revised to a total of £16 m.. Coastal ships will be produced for the Australian trade.

Government munition factories will soon commence a £1 m. programme of building small-type diesel engines. Other work to which munitions factory capacity is to be diverted includes marine diesel engines, ships, agricultural machinery, aircraft and internal combustion engines for civilian use e.g. for operating milking machines.

TRANSPORT.

Operating results^{/of} Government transport services for the eleven months period ended May, 1943 are shown in the table below in comparison with previous years. The working surplus in the railway accounts at the end of May was £1.5 m. above last year. The working surplus in the road transport services accounts was slightly lower than in the previous year. In each case passenger traffic has attained record levels. Railway freight traffic in the eleven months ended May, 1943 was nearly 1 m. tons greater than in the corresponding period of 1941-42.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Eleven Months July - May.

Year.	RAILWAYS.				TRAMWAYS & 'BUSES. (a)			
	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Working Expenses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses. £	Passenger Journeys.	Earnings.	Working Expenses (x)	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses (x)	Passenger Journeys. *
	'000 tons	£000	£000	million	£000	£000	£000	million
38/39	13,986	12,730	4,832	172	4,022	3,388	634	344
39/40	13,178	12,908	5,329	164	4,110	3,434	676	348
40/41	16,588	14,611	6,729	176	4,391	3,550	841	373
41/42	17,075	18,283	6,949	199	4,996	4,185	811	442
42/43	17,983	22,835	8,420	217	5,135	4,404	731	462

£ Excl. interest, s.fund and exch. (£6,570,000 in 1941/42).

(a) Sydney and Newcastle.

(x) Excl. int., s.f., exch. & current depreciation (£605,000 in 1941/42).

* Excludes Harbour Bridge section trips.

There is a great future for air transport in Australia, according to the Quartermaster of the U.S. Army Services of Supply. Extensive development has taken place during the war particularly in New Guinea. The Director of Civil Aviation (Australia) has drawn up plans, which have been submitted to the Government, for post-war development of civil aviation.

PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

Seasonal Conditions. In the last few weeks rainfall has been light. In the coastal areas particularly, rainfall was poor. Low temperatures have been experienced at times. Pastoral conditions are not promising in the far-western and south-western areas of the State where frost and dry conditions have affected feed.

NEW SOUTH WALES - RAINFALL INDEX.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Period.	Sheep Districts	Wheat Districts.	Dairying (Coastal) Districts
Year - 1942	111	110	97
1942 - Oct.	127	97	332
- Nov.	165	164	153
- Dec.	129	93	140
1943 - Jan.	141	138	75
Feb.	52	55	60
Mar.	15	17	44
Apr.	133	148	48
May	124	118	216
June	51	53	25

FOOD SUPPLY.

Points from recent official statements were:-

1. The central authorities concerned with food policy and administration (except Meat, Dairy Produce and Egg Controls) have been concentrated in one building in Melbourne. Other controls are directed from Sydney.

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2. U.S. servicemen serving in South Pacific areas and who are experts in agricultural engineering, primary production and food processing, have been co-opted by the Commonwealth Government to assist in the food programme.
3. The production of seed is being stimulated. The Munitions Dept. is manufacturing agricultural machinery. Some 20% of the estimated requirements of machinery for the vegetable programme may be obtainable from U.S.A.
4. The Government aim is a continuous supply of vegetables at reasonable prices. The quantity of vegetables canned in Australia before the war was about 4,500 tons a year. In 1942-43 24,000 tons were canned and further increases are planned. When all the Government dehydration plants are operating supplies of dried vegetables will be available for civilians. In 1942-43 estimated output was 1,000 tons. The target for 1943-44 is 10,000 tons.
5. The barley crop is to be limited in exporting states (Vic. & S.A.) to a total of 6 m. bus.. Growers' acreage quotas are fixed at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the average area sown in the past three seasons.
6. The Fodder Conservation Board's functions have been taken over by the Director General of Agriculture.

In N.S.W. the Division of Agricultural Economics has made arrangements for certain farmers voluntarily to keep adequate records of production, expenditure and receipts. After a year the farmers' records will be analysed and advice will be tendered to the farmers.

MEAT.

The scheme under which Commonwealth authorities obtain priority requirements of beef from carcasses at slaughter yards has been extended to cover all N.S.W.

On the basis of a wholesale price of 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ d.lb. for pig carcasses up to 100 lb. delivered to retailers, retail pork prices are subject to the following upper limit leg, 1/4 per lb.; best loin, 1/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.

WHEAT.

The Department of Agriculture forecasts a reduction of about 20% in wheat acreage sown for grain in N.S.W. compared with the 1942-43 season. This would bring wheat acreage down to 2.4 m. acres compared with an average area harvested in the seasons 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40 of 4.5 m. acres.

The hearing has commenced of an application by the Australian Workers' Union for a grain and hay harvesting award for all States.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

The State Government has authorised the Milk Board to conduct a general inquiry into prices in the milk industry. Costs of factory treatment, depot handling and retailing will be investigated in Newcastle and Sydney areas.

The mechanised farming unit at Nowra, established by the State Government, makes the following charges per acre: ploughing new land, 35/-; ploughing stubble land, 22/6; tandem discing, 8/6.

Butter produced in N.S.W. factories in May, 1943 was only 4.8 m. lb. compared with 6.8 m. lb. in each of the two previous seasons. With production for eleven months of the year recorded, it can be seen that output in 1942-43, although greater than last season's, was nevertheless well below 1940-41.

The Prices Commissioner has approved a recommendation of the Prices Stabilisation Committee that a further subsidy of 1d. a gallon be granted to producers of milk delivered to Melbourne and Bendigo. The subsidy is thus raised to 2d. per gallon. It applies in the winter months only.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lb.

Year	Whole year	Eleven Months July - May.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.
1939/40	112.0	107.0	13.8	12.6	10.6	9.6	9.2	7.3
1940/41	103.7	98.5	11.4	14.5	12.8	11.7	8.7	6.8
1941/42	85.1	79.6	8.6	6.7	8.3	10.1	8.6	6.8
1942/43	80.0	80.1	12.0	13.0	10.2	8.6	6.1	4.8

WOOL.

Appraisements of wool in Sydney and Newcastle in 1942-43 totalled 1,245,593 bales or 102,588 bales less than the previous season. Turnover in Newcastle was 174,570 bales, an increase of 54,240 and there was also an expansion in appraisements at Goulburn.

Averaged appraisal prices per lb. on a greasy basis were: N.S.W. 13.61d., Vic. 14.98d., Q'ld. 13.79d. and the Australian average was 13.898. The return to the grower in N.S.W. is the appraised price plus the equalisation payment (11.188% in 1942/43) i.e. 15.1d. per lb..

In trade circles a heavier clip is expected in N.S.W. in the 1943-44 season.

Results of appraisements under the British contract for the last four seasons are summarised below:

WOOL APPRAISED, AUSTRALIA - GREASY AND SCAURED WOOL.

	<u>1939-40</u>	<u>1940-41.</u>	<u>1941-42.</u>	<u>1942-43</u>
No. of Bales	3,621,095	3,506,210	3,577,966	3,529,805
Value ... £	64,723,084	60,959,828	63,126,096	73,525,280

In these figures greasy and scoured wool are combined as "bales". The value does not correspond with the value of wool production as in the grease.

Slightly heavier bales on the average were pressed in 1942-43. Sufficient woolpacks are on hand for next season but agreement has been reached with the Indian Jute Mills Association that a new style be adopted for future orders. The new design will reduce the mixing of jute fibres with the wool.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board have raised the 1943 quotas of dried fruits available to the public. Currants are raised from 15% to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of production, sultanas from 15 to 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ % and lexias from 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

The Commonwealth Egg Control, extending over most of Australia, came into force on July, 5th. Producers holding special permits may sell eggs direct to consumers and must pay a levy of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. on such sales.

An experimental crop of hemp has been grown at Grafton, N.S.W.

During the last four months marketing of rabbit skins in Sydney has been particularly heavy. A total of about 415 tons was equal to about 6.5 m. rabbit skins.

A classification Committee has been appointed by the State Government to investigate the qualifications of soldier applicants for Crown lands. Certificates of fitness and experience satisfactorily to occupy and develop the land will be a condition of grants.